

# Hispanic-American Heritage Month

A close-up, oil-painting style portrait of Sonia Sotomayor. She is smiling, showing her teeth, and has dark, wavy hair. The background is a dark blue with faint, overlapping text from news articles, including phrases like 'Judge as 'Insp...', 'tee OKs Sotoma...', 's Historic De...', 'irms Sotor...', 'orn In as S...', 'Queries on A...', 'Senate Ope...', 'For Puerto R...', and 'Sotomay...'.

**Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now**



# 2009 Theme: Embracing the Fierce Urgency of Now!



# Hispanic and Latinos: A broad and geographically diverse group



# Hispanic-Latino Ethnic & Cultural Groups

maps courtesy of The World Factbook

- Mexico



- Puerto Rico



# Hispanic-Latino Ethnic & Cultural Groups, con't.

- Central America



## South America





# Hispanic-Latino

## Ethnic & Cultural Groups, con't.

- Cuba



- Dominican Republic

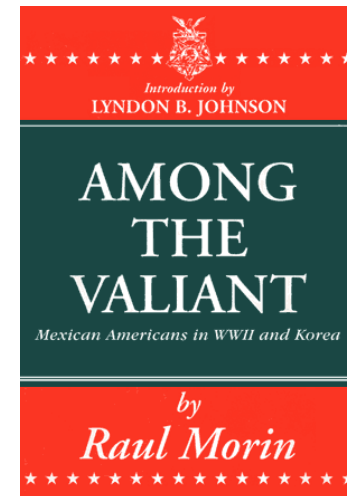


# Famous Hispanic/Latinos in the Military



# Famous Hispanic/Latinos in the Military

- Morin, Raul (1966). *Among the Valiant: Mexican-Americans in WWII and Korea*. Alhambra, CA: Borden Publishing Company.  
*The author spent three years in Army hospitals recovering from wounds he received in WWII. He wrote this book because he couldn't find Spanish-named soldiers in the novels and movies made about the war years and he wanted to tell about the experiences of Hispanic soldiers.*

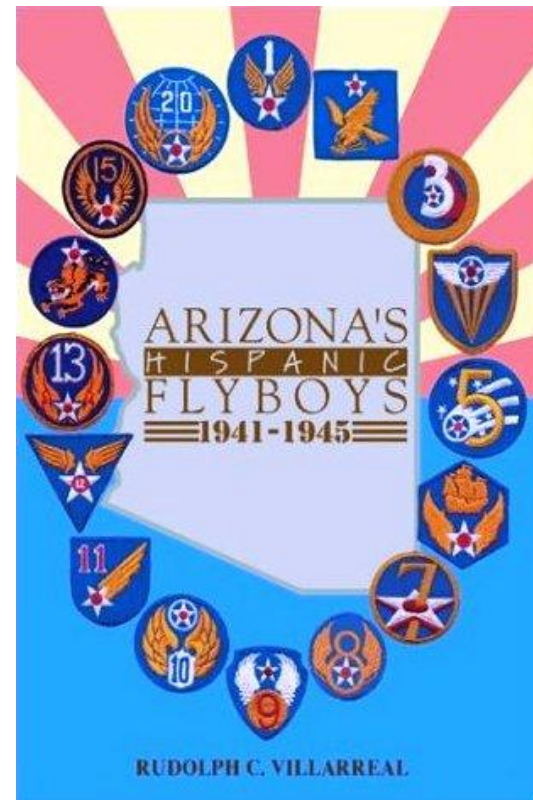




# Famous Hispanic/Latinos in the Military

- Villarreal, Rudolph C. (2002). *Arizona's Hispanic Flyboys, 1941–1945*. New York:Writer's Club Press.

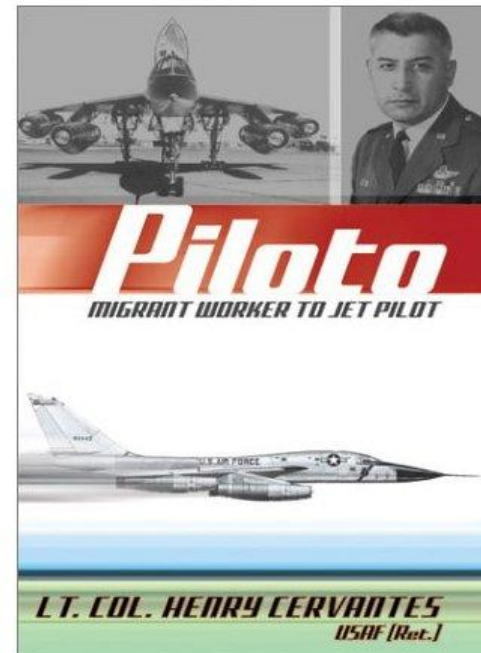
*This book is a listing of Arizona Hispanics who served as pilots, navigators, flight engineers, gunners, and radio operators during WWII.*



# Famous Hispanic/Latinos in the Military

- Cervantes, Henry, Lt Col, USAF (Ret.). (2002). *Piloto: Migrant Worker to Jet Pilot*. Central Point, OR: Hellgate Press.

*Son of migrant field workers, Hank Cervantes became a pilot in WWII and had a successful career in the United States Air Force.*



# Famous Hispanic/Latinos in the Military

- Harris, W. W. Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Ret.). *Puerto Rico's Fighting 65th U.S. Infantry: From San Juan to Chorwan.*  
*The story of the Borinqueneers is narrated by their commanding officer of two years who led his men in combat in Korea for nine months.*



- Col. William W. "Bill" Harris, commander of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Near Wŏnsan, November 1950 (National Archives)



# Hispanic/Latino “Firsts”



# September Hispanic/Latino “Firsts”

(courtesy of DEOMI, 2006)



- September 16: General Richard E. Cavazos. **FIRST** Hispanic 4-Star General.
- September 17: Admiral Horacio Rivero. **FIRST** Hispanic 4-Star Admiral.
- September 18: Senator Dennis Chavez. **FIRST** Hispanic Senator.
- September 24: Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz. **FIRST** Hispanic Astronaut.
- September 29: Pvt David Barkley. Army's **FIRST** Hispanic Medal of Honor Recipient.

# October Hispanic/Latino “Firsts”

- October 1: Edward Hidalgo. **FIRST** Hispanic Secretary of the U.S. Navy.
- October 3: LTG Edward D. Baca. **FIRST** Hispanic Chief of the National Guard Bureau.
- October 4: Brig Gen Carmelita Vigil-Schimenti. **FIRST** Hispanic female to attain rank of general.







# October Hispanic/Latino “Firsts”, con’t.

- October 6: Dr. Antonia Novello. **FIRST** Hispanic and FIRST female Surgeon General.
- October 10: Vernon “Lefty” Gomez. **FIRST** Hispanic inductee into Baseball Hall of Fame.
- October 13: Louis Caldera. **FIRST** Hispanic Secretary of the U.S. Army.
- October 14: Dr. Ellen Ochoa. **FIRST** Hispanic female Astronaut.

# More recently....

On August 8, 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace the retiring Justice David Souter. She becomes the Court's 111<sup>th</sup> justice, the first Hispanic justice, and the third female justice in the top U.S. court's 220-year history.



Associated Press

- Alberto Reynaldo Gonzales was appointed the 80th U.S. Attorney General, February 2005 by President George W. Bush. Gonzales was the first Hispanic and Mexican-American to serve as U.S. Attorney General.



- Picture courtesy of U.S. Department of Justice.





# Hispanic/Latinos in the DoD

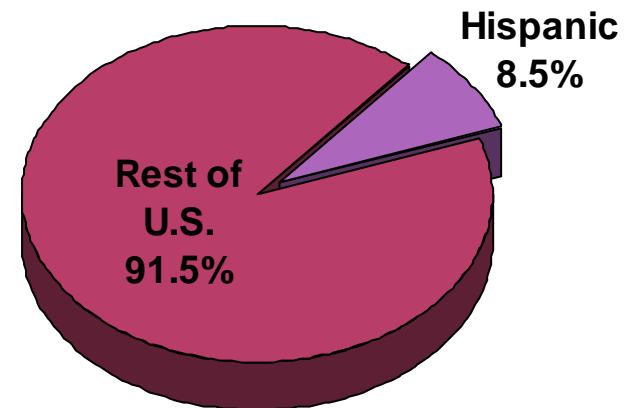


# Hispanic population in the DoD

## Active duty Military and DoD Civilian

from Pam R. Bridges (DMDC, May, 2005)

- 1993 - Total DoD population: 2.6 million
  - Approx 140.5 thousand Hispanics
  - 5.4% of total population
- 2004 - Total DoD population: 2 million
  - Over 171 thousand Hispanics
  - 8.5% of total population
- 1993 to 2004 Hispanic change:
  - Increased by over 31 thousand
  - ↑ 19.3% increase since 1993
  - ↑ 49.3% proportional increase since 1993



# Hispanic Share of Active Duty Population

from Pam R. Bridges (DMDC, May, 2005)

Proportion of Hispanics rose in every pay grade group:

Overall net increase for Hispanics was 43.3%

while all DoD decreased 16.2%

Largest Hispanic share growth in:

↑ Mid/Career Grade Enl: 97%

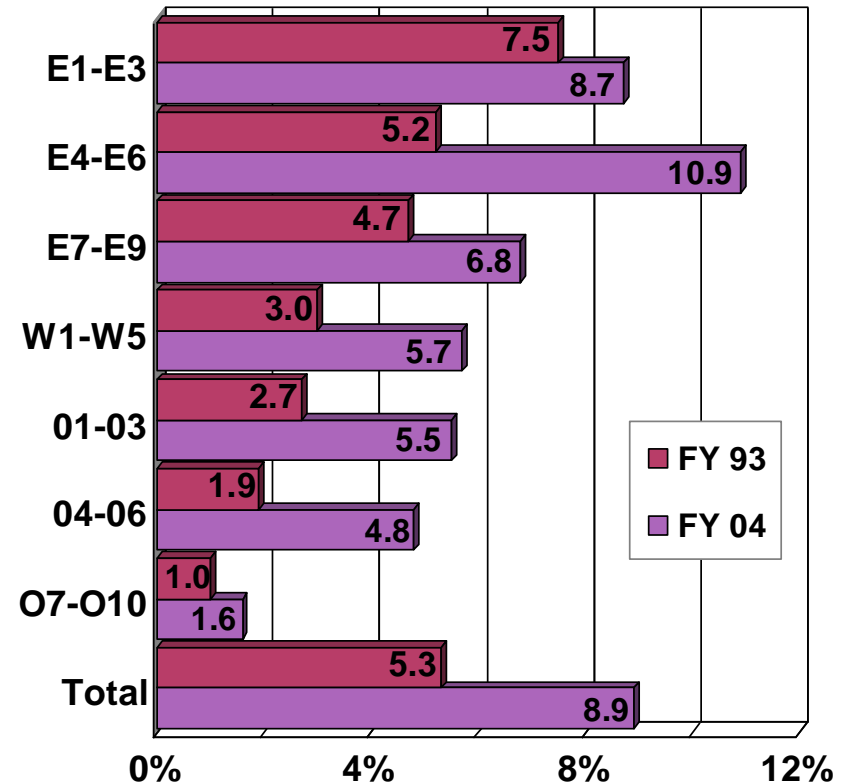
↑ Company Grade Off: 94%

↑ Warrant Officers: 82%

Share of Hispanic military leaders increased:

↑ Senior Enlisted up to 6.3%

↑ Flag Officers up to 1.6%

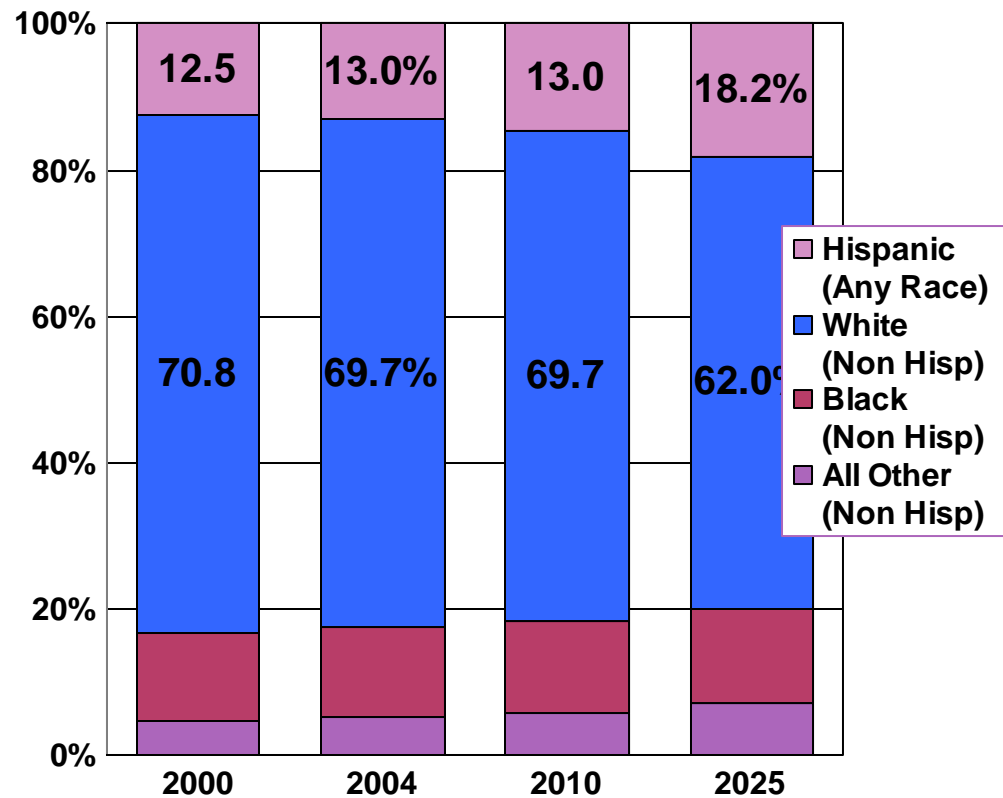




# Census estimates and projections

from Pam R. Bridges (DMDC, May, 2005)

- Hispanics are expected to be the fastest growing race-ethnic group over the next 20 years
  - Projected share growth of 46% by year 2025
  - Will be the largest minority (Black population will be five points lower, at 13%)
- If current trends continue, almost
- half of the US population will be
- non-white by 2050



*Don't Forget*



Cinco de Mayo and **Carnival!**  
Two American celebrations with  
Hispanic origins



# Cinco de Mayo



- Cinco de Mayo is an important date for the Mexican and Chicano communities. It celebrates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla. On the fifth of May, General Ignacio Zaragoza and 5,000 poorly-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the French army in what came to be known as the "Batalla de Puebla".



# Carnival!



- Also known as Mardi-gras...
- We end with another Hispanic first  
Krewe of Orpheus announced Otto Cesar Mehrgut as  
its 2007 Mardi Gras King, the first ever Hispanic King  
crowned in Mardi Gras history (Mandeville, LA).





# Additional Resources

from: DEOMI 2007 Hispanic Awareness presentation

## *Hispanic Cultural Influences:*

- Radomile, Leon J. (2003). *Heritage Hispanic-American Style (Bilingual Ed.)*. Novato, CA: Vincero Enterprises.

*This is a fun book which asks preguntas (questions) in both English and Spanish about Hispanic culture, history, and prominent persons. Answers are compiled at the end of the book.*

- Arreola, Daniel D. (Ed.). (2004). *Hispanic Spaces, Latino Places: Community and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary America*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

*Two sociologists and sixteen geographers look at cultural geography, regional diversity, and community-type of Hispanic/Latino groups.*

- Suarez-Orozco, Marcelo M. & Paez, Mariela M. (Eds.). (2002). *Latinos: Remaking America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

*This book examines various Hispanic/Latino sub-group experiences.*

# Additional resources, con't.

- Suro, Roberto (1998). *Strangers Among Us: How Latino Immigration is Transforming America*. New York: Knopf.  
*Examining the history of Latino immigration, the author looks at the Puerto Rican migration to New York in the 1950's, the Cuban migration to Miami, and the migration of Mexicans to Los Angeles.*
- Tobar, Hector (2005). *Translation Nation: Defining a New American Identity in the Spanish-Speaking United States*. New York: Riverhead Books.  
*The author, a former Latino affairs correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, captures the Latino experience through a series of vignettes of Hispanics living in different parts of the United States.*
- Rodriguez, Richard. (2002). *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*. New York: Penguin Books.  
*This memoir by journalist and social critic, Richard Rodriguez, looks at race in American culture.*

# Additional resources, con't.

- Pantoja, Antonia. (2002). *Antonia Pantoja: Memoir of A Visionary*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press.

*Born in Puerto Rico in 1922, Antonia Pantoja moved to New York in 1944 and eventually became an activist. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1996 in recognition of her work in organizing Puerto Ricans to overcome the barriers of poverty, increasing political awareness, and promoting economic opportunities.*

- Levy, Jacques E. (1975). *Cesar Chavez: Autobiography of La Causa*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

*This is the story of the founder of the United Farm Workers of America who worked to prevent the exploitation of farm workers and improve their working conditions.*

- Haugen, Brenda. (2005). *Henry B. Gonzalez: Congressman of the People*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books.

*Henry B. Gonzalez served in the House of Representatives from November 1961 until January 1999. The Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas is named after him.*

# Additional resources, con't.

- Nava, Julian. (2002). *Julian Nava: My Mexican-American Journey*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press.

*Julian Nava was the first Mexican-American to serve as ambassador to Mexico. He obtained a PhD in History from Harvard and served on the Los Angeles School Board during challenging times when desegregation, and bilingual issues confronted education administration.*

- **Audiovisuals**

*Heroes Hispanos. (1993). Hialeah, FL: Telemundo Network 4*

Running time: 150 minutes.

*From the American Revolution through Desert Storm, this documentary explores the contributions of Hispanic-Americans in the armed forces.*



# Additional resources, con't.

- *Hispanic Magazine's Guide to Hispanic Excellence: the Leaders. (1993). USA: Public Media Video. Running time: 35 minutes.*  
*Hispanic leaders such as: Dr. Antonio Novello, the first Hispanic woman to serve as U.S. Surgeon General; Joseph Unanue, owner of the largest Hispanic food company; and Raul Yzaguirre, advocate for justice and equality talk about work ethics and role models that made a difference in their lives.*
- *Hispanics and the Medal of Honor. (2002). USA: A&E Television Network. Running time: 50 minutes.*  
*This documentary narrated by Hector Elizondo explores the role of Hispanics in the armed services.*

# Additional resources, con't.

- CBS. (1998). *20th Century Hispanics in America with Mike Wallace*. USA: A&E Television Networks. Running time: 50 minutes.  
*This is a history of recent Hispanic immigration beginning in 1959 with Cuban exiles coming to America.*
- *NOW with Bill Moyers: Richard Rodriguez on Being American*. (2004). Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities. Running time: 40 minutes.  
*Bill Moyers talks with journalist and social critic Richard Rodriguez about race, culture, class and religion.*

# References

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- The WorldFactbook. Downloaded from <http://www.cia.gov/library/publication/the-world-factbook/geob/bh.html>.
- U.S. Department of Justice. Downloaded from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Alberto\\_Gonzales\\_-\\_official\\_DOJ\\_photograph.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Alberto_Gonzales_-_official_DOJ_photograph.jpg).
- Villarreal, Rudolph C. (2002). *Arizona's Hispanic Flyboys, 1941–1945*. New York:Writer's Club Press.

# Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month Presentation

Prepared by Judith L. Johnson, Ph.D.  
on behalf of the Defense Equal Opportunity  
Management Institute  
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